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ASCLEPIAS INCARNATA **SWAMP MILKWEED**

Swamp Milkweed is a stout perennial from a shallow, fibrous root system, with usually a solitary, simple or branched stem standing 50-250 cm tall. The short-stalked, pointed, lance shaped leaves, 3-15 cm long by 0.5-4.5 cm wide, are opposite on the stems, and have milky sap. Few to many umbrella-like inflorescences, each with 10-40 flowers, are borne at the ends of the stems and branches. Flowers are 9-11 mm long, made up of 5 green to purple, reflexed calyx lobes, 5 pink or white reflexed corolla lobes, and 5 hood-like structures with slender, exserted horns that surround the staminal column and attached stigmas. The horns arch above the hoods and the structures that it surrounds. The spindle-shaped milkweed pods, 5-8 cm long by about 1 cm thick, open along one suture and contain numerous seeds with tufts of white, silky hairs at one end. Flowering in July.

The combination of acute leaves >4 mm wide and slender horns longer than the hoods distinguish *ASCLEPIAS INCARNATA* from other Montana milkweeds. *ASCLEPIAS SPECIOSA* also has pinkish corollas and occupies wetland habitat, but has large hoods that surpass the horns.